

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2005 Holiday Lighting Policy

1. The holiday season is fast approaching. Decorative lights and fixtures will certainly be part of our celebration as we ready our homes, office and other areas for the holidays. In a time of dramatically increasing energy costs, the additional lighting has the potential to increase the Fort Carson utility bill by thousands of dollars. This policy strives to achieve balance of our individual desires for decorative lighting with our responsibility to conserve energy and be good stewards of our resources.
2. This policy applies to all units, directorates, and agencies assigned and attached to Fort Carson, and housing residents. The policy supplements paragraph 24 of Chapter 3 of the Fort Carson Resident Guide dated 1 Sep 02 and the CG Energy Efficiency Measures for FY06 dated 12 Oct 05.
3. Please abide by the following energy conservation measures to save energy and money:
 - a. Use outside holiday lighting **only** between 24 Oct 05 through 31 Oct 05, and 23 Nov 05 through 8 Jan 06.
 - b. Avoid excessive use of decorative lighting, inside and out.
 - c. Turn electrical decorations on no earlier than dusk and off not later than 2300 (11:00pm), except on 24-25 Dec 05 and 31 Dec 05- 1 Jan 06 when they may remain on until 0100 (1:00am).
 - d. Turn off holiday decorations when facilities and residences are not occupied.
 - e. If possible, buy lighting decorations that have the Energy Star label or use Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) instead of incandescent bulbs. These products are more energy efficient.
4. The Field Grade officer of the day, the housing NCOs and area and block coordinators will check housing areas daily/nightly to ensure compliance with this policy.
5. We request all abide by the following fire and safety guidelines this holiday season:
 - a. Ensure all electrical decorations are in good working order without fraying or other damage.

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b. Use a power strip instead of several extension cords which can be fire and tripping hazards.

c. Use extension cords rated for the load to be placed on them.

d. Do NOT use the three-way extension cord sometimes referred to as "ZIPCORDS". These are dangerous especially on inside decorations.

e. Do NOT use extension cords in doorways or other locations where they may become damaged and cause a short.

f. Use only grounded extension cords suitable for outdoor use for exterior decorations. Place them carefully to avoid tripping hazards.

g. Do NOT light or use candles near curtains, decorations or in other locations near combustible or flammable items. Place candles on surfaces or in containers that won't burn. Do NOT leave candles burning unattended.

h. Keep cut evergreen trees well watered; check the water level daily. (Please watch for cut tree collection and recycling information in the near future.)

i. Keep small objects and decorations out of the reach of young children and pets.

6. Your cooperation during this festive season is appreciated. Have a safe and happy holiday season.



MICHAEL RESTY JR
COL, CM
Garrison Commander

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